

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): An optical fiber cutting device comprising a speed reducing part which transmits drive force by reducing the drive speed of the external drive force, a drive force transmission part which transmits the drive force from the speed reduction part to the cutting blade holder, a cutting blade holder, a cutting blade which is held by the cutting blade holder and moves to the cutting position along with said cutting blade holder, and an optical fiber supporter which supports the optical fiber so as to be perpendicular to said cutting blade at the cutting position.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): An optical fiber cutting device according to Claim 1 wherein said drive force is provided by the rotation of a motor, said speed reducing part is a set of speed reducing gears which reduces the speed of the rotation of said motor, and further, said drive force transmission part comprises a cam which rotates along with the rotation of said set of speed reduction gears and a cam follower which moves in a rectilinear direction along with the rotation of said cam.

Claims 3-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:

moving a cutting blade by drive force so as to transit a center portion of an optical fiber; [[and]]

preventing acceleration of said cutting blade after said cutting blade transits the center of said optical fiber; and

automatically stopping transmission of said drive force to said cutting blade.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein a speed of movement of said cutting blade is always constant while cutting said optical fiber.

Claims 19-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein said cutting blade is moved by using an optical fiber cutting apparatus including said cutting blade, a cutting blade holder configured to hold and to move said cutting blade to a cutting position, an optical fiber supporter configured to support said optical fiber so as to position it perpendicular to said cutting blade at said cutting position, a speed reducing device configured to receive and to reduce a drive force, and a drive force transmission device configured to transfer said drive force from said speed reducing device to said cutting blade holder.

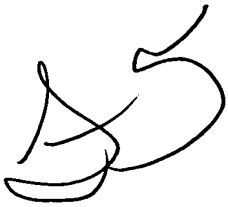
Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 21, wherein said drive force is provided by a motor.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 22, wherein said speed reducing device comprises a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 23, wherein said drive force transmission device comprises a cam configured to rotate along with the rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with the rotation of said cam.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to claim 23, wherein gear teeth are provided on a part of an outer periphery of one of said speed reducing gears and second gear teeth are provided on an outer periphery of the other of said speed reducing gears; and a switching between transmission and stoppage of said drive force

~~which is transmitted~~ between said motor and said drive force transmission part is performed by forcibly rotating one of said speed reducing gears so as to mesh said gear teeth ~~which are provided on one part of one of said speed reducing gears~~ to said second gear teeth of the other of said speed reducing gears, and the transmission of said drive force between said motor and said drive force transmission part is automatically stopped due to facing of said outer periphery of one of said speed reducing gears at which said gear teeth are not provided to said second gear teeth of the other of said speed reducing gears as a result of rotation of said speed reducing gears.



Concluded

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